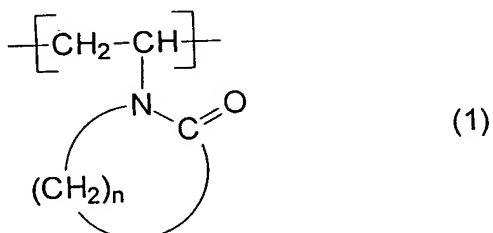


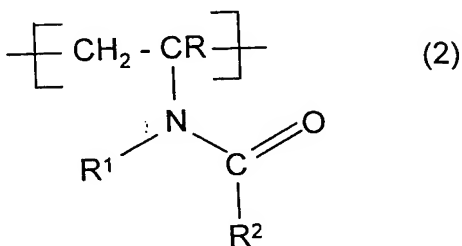
ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Water-soluble or water-swellaible crosslinked copolymers consisting essentially of structural units of the formula 1

5

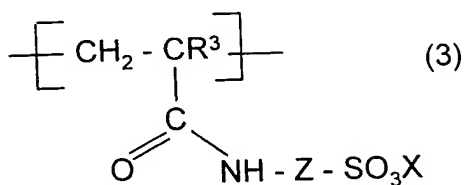


or a mixture of the structural units of the formula 1 with structural units of the formula 2



10

and structural units of the formula 3



15

where R, R¹, R², R³, Z and n are as defined in the description. These copolymers are crosslinked with compounds which contain at least two olefinic double bonds. These crosslinked copolymers are suitable as thickeners, in particular for cosmetic and pharmaceutical preparations.